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Office of University Communications

February 19, 2013

Public Invited to Gardner-Webb for a Day of Intellectual and Stimulating Presentations

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University will host the Life of the Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference, an annual showcase of students' undergraduate research on Saturday, Feb. 23 in the Tucker Student Center. The event is sponsored by the Life of the Scholar (LOTS), an informal but dedicated group of GWU professors and students who work to take from the classroom into the wider community, which includes support from the Undergraduate Research program.

“LOTS Multidisciplinary Conference features several kinds of academic presentations, including research papers and creative work such as musical performances,” said Dr. June Hobbs, professor of English and LOTS member. “This year for example, we are offering two sessions on slavery. The first is a set of papers on slavery in history, and the second is a panel discussion on modern-day slavery, which is human trafficking.”

Since its inception by Dr. Les Brown, who retired from the GWU biology department in 2006 after 40 years of service, the conference has allowed students to share their research with the community, stimulate creative thinking, and enhance their resumes with a professional conference credit.

Hobbs said, “Professional presentations challenge students to hone their speaking and writing skills and their self- presentation. A dozen or so of the students this year are giving presentations they will give later in the spring at regional and national conferences such as the national Alpha Chi convention.”

Students will have the opportunity to win cash prizes and recognition as they compete for presentation prizes in different sessions with a group of judges and the audience rating their performance. This includes a generous gift by Dr. Don Caudill, professor of marketing, in the GWU Godbold School of Business. The Alfred and Shirley Wampler Caudill Best Paper and Best Presentation prizes are awarded in honor and memory of his parents. The awards are based on such criteria as clarity of focus and purpose, originality of thought and application, and excellent writing including well developed ideas.

The event begins with opening remarks at 9 a.m., the first session at 9:30, the final session at 1:45 p.m. followed by refreshments and prizes at 3:15. As a plus for participants and the audience, four faculty members will present a showcase of their work as a model for the students.

“Every year we are struck by how much fun everyone has at LOTS Multidisciplinary Conference. We cordially invite everyone to come enjoy it,” said Hobbs.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University’s purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).